Next Gen Update

Judicial Information Systems

Welcome to the third edition of *Next Gen Update*. This newsletter is intended to provide periodic updates on the efforts and progress of the JIS Next Generation case management system project. Other project information is posted at http://courts.michigan.gov/jis/courts/ng/ngindex.html

Project Update

On April 1, 2010, a project update was provided to the Steering Committee consisting of leadership from Berrien and Washtenaw counties, SCAO, JIS, and Unisys. Two and a half years into the project, we are 16 months behind the original baseline schedule. The delay is a result of analysis and development taking longer than originally planned, more requirements are being met within the Civil/Core phase that were planned for later phases, and a development toolset migration. As a result, JIS/SCAO has contributed more to the project by way of Change Orders, and Unisys has contributed by absorbing some of the costs.

Though we have experienced delays during the initial phase of the project, now that the basic application framework of the Civil/Core Phase is in place and the new development toolset is implemented, the project is progressing on time and we do not expect any additional long term delays.

The switch to a new development toolset within the Microsoft .Net framework was necessary and justified from a technical standpoint to allow us to support the application now and in the future. As a result, the development team is realizing the expected 20% increase in productivity and the Test team is experiencing fewer defects. JIS developers are transitioning to the new environment and assisting with the development of some financial, search, forms, and reports functions.

The Civil/Core phase of application development is scheduled to complete 11/2010, with data migration, forms and reports expected to complete 3/2011. The entire Criminal Phase is scheduled to complete 3/2012. Implementation schedules with Berrien and Washtenaw counties will be determined as those dates approach, but most likely closer to the completion of the Criminal Phase to minimize their time running dual systems.

The Business Analysis Team has completed the Civil/Core phase and is now progressing into the Criminal Phase. The BA team has made several changes to become more efficient and is currently on schedule in the Criminal Phase analysis which is targeted for completion in May, 2011.

The Data Migration team continues to increase their knowledge of the migration tools and NextGen database. JIS has taken over full responsibility for the data migration effort which results in a cost savings. The team has streamlined their processes to make them more efficient and continue to develop migration functions for the Civil/Core data components for Berrien, Washtenaw, and JIS.

Phases of the Project

Development

Business Analysis

Core/Civil | Criminal | Juvenile | Probate

Partner Counties

Berrien and Washtenaw counties are partnering in the development of the NextGen court application. As partner counties, they are contributing to the upfront development costs of the project and participating in the business analysis and data migration efforts.

Berrien County Team Members

Berrien County has an aging in-house developed mainframe application. They have chosen to partner and implement the JIS NextGen court application rather than continue to support their current application or re-write it themselves. Washtenaw County partnered with a third party to develop and support their custom trial court system. Though it is a newer PC based application based on their specific requirements, the software vendor has gone bankrupt. They have also chosen to implement the JIS NextGen application as their current system is unsupported.

Berrien County

Alfred Butzbaugh – Chief Judge
Brian Ray – Court Administration
Susan Greco – Court Administration
Julie Cripe – Court Administration
Susan Franklin – Civil
Jenny Engle – Criminal/Traffic
Carol Brohman – Criminal/Traffic
Priscilla Riedel – Central Assignment
Sheila Beckmann - County Clerk
Denise Glick - County Clerk
Shelly Frank – Information Systems
Lisa Kuntz – Trial Court Financial Office

Washtenaw County

Judge Don Sheldon – Chief Judge, Trial Court
Dan Dwyer – Trial Court Administration
Scot Cannell – Trial Court
Phil Ristenbatt – Trial Court
Barry Joseph – Trial Court
Karen Edman – Trial Court
Sarah Undy – 14A District Court
Lisa Moutinho – 14A District Court
Kathy Collins – 14B District Court
Denise Roe – 14B District Court

New Application Features

Each edition of the newsletter will introduce a few new features of the Next Generation application.

Professional Assignment

- In addition to automatic judge assignment, referees can be automatically assigned by case type and based on the assigned judge, participant name, or random assignment.

- Based on participants of a new case, the system can determine their previous cases and allow for selection of the judge assigned to previous cases.

- A judge may also be assigned based on specialty court. For example, if a case is assigned to Drug Court, the system can automatically assign the judge or randomly select from a list of judges assigned to hear drug court cases.

Specialty Courts

- Courts may establish their own specialty courts within the system and assign a specialty court value (Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, etc) to cases.

Notes

- "Sticky" notes may be added to many of the components within the system such as cases, participants, documents, financials, judicial officers, resources, etc. Notes are informational only and will not appear on the formal Register of Actions (ROA).

Reminders

- Reminders are informational entries on the system that prompt users to take action.

- Can be related to cases.

- Can be recorded for a user or group of users.

- Users can review a calendar of their reminders.

Project Update Continued

The Technical team is designing an overall security plan for NextGen and other Supreme Court applications using Microsoft Active Directory. A decision has been made to host the application using a centrally hosted client (Citrix XenApp™) to eliminate local PC requirements and support, security, and network bandwidth issues. A recent remote location test of the application has verified this approach as response times were significantly better using the Citrix client versus the software installed on a PC at the remote location.

JIS also presented at the 2010 Michigan Court Managers Conference in May. The presentation reviewed the business and technical objectives of the project, the vendor selection process, project organization, current status, and a demonstration of what has been developed in the Civil/Core Phase. The slideshow presentation is available on the JIS NextGen website at http://courts.michigan.gov/jis/courts/ng/MCAA%20May%202010%20Next%20Gen.pdf .

Our focus is to get the new application developed and implemented in Berrien and Washtenaw county courts. Later, we will develop a plan for the migration of courts currently using JIS court applications.